
Government of the District of Columbia



**Office of the Deputy Mayor for
Public Safety and Justice**

Testimony of
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***Public Oversight Roundtable on the Implementation of
the Mayor's Youth Development Plan***

Special Committee on the Prevention of Youth Violent Crime
The Honorable Vincent C. Gray, Chair
Council of the District of Columbia

July 7, 2006

Room 500
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
10:00 A.M.

Good morning Chairperson Gray and members of the Special Committee on the Prevention of Youth Violent Crime. I am Edward Reiskin, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to provide written testimony for the record on the implementation of the Mayor's Effective Youth Development Strategy. As is custom, a copy of my testimony will be posted on my website at <http://dmpsdc.gov>.

Since Deputy Mayor for Children, Youth, Families, and Elders Brenda Donald Walker provided the committee with an update on the strategy's Safety First! initiatives, I would like to highlight several additional activities being led by our public safety agencies to keep youth safe this summer. The District kicked off this summer's 40 Days of Increased Peace last month in Ward 7 on the last day of school. The annual initiative includes more than 300 events around the city for more than 40 consecutive days, designed to promote the safest summer yet for our children. By keeping kids engaged in meaningful activities, we know that we also keep them out of trouble and out of harm's way.

Parents and kids can use the District's hotline to call in each day for a free listing of events by dialing (202) IM Bored (462-6733). You can also access a calendar of 40 Days events by visiting MPD's website at <http://mpdc.dc.gov>. Beyond 40 Days, MPD is involved in many other prevention, education, and intervention programs to reduce crime by and against youth such as the daily activities at Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Clubs throughout the city, Youth Advisory Councils, and special events like National Night Out, which will take place this year on Tuesday, August 1st.

And of course, prevention, education, and intervention must be combined with enforcement. The activities above are most effective when the consequences for breaking the law in DC are fair and certain. Every summer, curfew enforcement is an important tool for ensuring the safety of young people throughout the city. Starting this month and continuing through August 31st, the District's curfew for young people under the age of 17 begins at 12:01 a.m., seven days a week. This is an hour later than the weeknight curfew during the other 10 months of the year, when the teen curfew begins at 11 p.m., Sunday through Thursday nights, and at 12:01 a.m. on weekends. We picked up 173 curfew violators the last week of June alone, and curfew citations are up 18 percent this year.

In terms of enforcement, Deputy Mayor Donald Walker touched on several disconcerting trends we are seeing regarding youth violent crime. One out of every six juveniles arrested in DC today is charged with a violent offense, compared with about one out of every 20 adults arrested. The number of juveniles arrested for robbery offenses alone increased 37 percent in 2005, and arrests for weapon offenses rose 30 percent. These alarming trends have continued, even accelerated, this year. Through the first six months of 2006, robbery arrests of juveniles are up an astonishing 95 percent. In fact, 4 out of every 10 individuals arrested for robbery this year in the District has been a juvenile. If these trends continue, juvenile arrests in the District will top 3,000 this year, a level not seen since the 1990s. That is why, as the summer heats up, we will be strengthening some of our intervention efforts to focus resources on police service areas that have seen the most troubling numbers of youth violent crime arrests and multiple arrests of youth.

As it is frequently stated in these forums, juvenile homicides are an important barometer of our efforts to reduce youth violent crime, but do not provide the full picture. We need to drill down and analyze these and other numbers, including positive indicators, for signs of trends over a period of years. As of today, there have been eight juvenile homicides in 2006, compared to 12 in 2005, 24 in 2004, 13 in 2003, and 17 in 2002. All eight victims were male; seven died from gunshot wounds. The eighth, a five month old baby, was a victim of child abuse killed by blunt force impact trauma. Four of the other victims were 17 years old, two were 13, and one was 16, underscoring the reality that the most deadly age for juveniles is 17.

You requested information on the neighborhood where each murder occurred. Two of the three juvenile homicides in 3D occurred in Columbia Heights. The other homicide took place in Old City 2. All three juvenile homicides in 7D occurred in Congress Heights. In the Sixth District, one juvenile homicide took place in Deanwood and the other in Lily Ponds. The complete breakdown of the site of each juvenile homicide by police district back to 2002 is below.

District	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 (Jan to July 5)
1D	1	0	2	1	0
2D	0	1	0	0	0
3D	1	0	1	2	3
4D	3	0	3	0	0
5D	3	2	5	0	0
6D	7	3	4	3	2
7D	2	7	9	6	3
Total	17	13	24	12	8

You also requested the dates of each juvenile homicide in 2006. In the table below, you will find the date of each juvenile homicide, the motive, police district, PSA, Ward, and neighborhood.

Date of Incident	Motive	District of Incident	PSA of Incident	Ward of Incident	Neighborhood of Incident
1/5/2006	Argument	7	703	8	Congress Heights
1/24/2006	Accidental	6	602	7	Deanwood
1/30/2006	Retaliation	7	706	8	Congress Heights
4/1/2006	Retaliation	3	305	1	Columbia Heights
4/27/2006	Unknown	3	305	1	Old City 2
6/15/2006	Unknown	7	706	8	Congress Heights
6/19/2006	Child Abuse	3	304	1	Columbia Heights
6/29/2006	Unknown	6	601	7	Lily Ponds

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Finally, Mr. Chairman, I know that your demonstrated interest in youth violence prevention extends beyond the neighborhoods and into the classrooms and hallways of our schools. As a member of the Committee on Education, Libraries, and Recreation you are likely aware that a joint public oversight roundtable on school security with the Committee on the Judiciary is scheduled for next Friday, July 14, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 412. At this hearing, Assistant Chief Gerald Wilson will provide testimony with his counterpart from DCPS, which will include a joint security assessment of the 2005-2006 school year. The assessment will offer recommendations to be implemented in time for the start of the next school year.

In closing, thank you again for the opportunity to enter this written testimony on the Mayor's Effective Youth Development Strategy into the public record.